

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 FEA-01 OES-06 ACDA-07 NASA-01 ERDA-05

NRC-05 IO-13 /107 W

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R 260808Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7026

USIA WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SANA

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USIA FOR IOP/M

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, SA, FR

SUBJECT: GISCARD VISIT TO KINGDOM

SUMMARY: PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING OF FRANCE COMPLETED

A THREE-DAY VISIT TO THE KINGDOM JANUARY 25. THE SAUDIS

PULLED OUT ALL THE STOPS ON MEDIA COVERAGE, COVERING THE

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PAGEENTRY AND SPECIAL EVENTS ON EVENING TELEVISION SPECIALS.

HIGH-LEVEL DELEGATIONS ON BOTH SIDES DISCUSSED SUBJECTS OF

MUTUAL INTEREST, INCLUDING REGIONAL AFFAIRS AND BILATERAL

RELATIONS. ALSO DISCUSSED WERE OIL PURCHASES, SALE OF A

NUCLEAR REACTOR, AND VARIOUS COMMERCIAL ARRANGEMENTS.

THE VISIT WAS ENDED BY A JOINT COMMUNIQUE. END SUMMARY.

1. IN THE FIRST VISIT TO THE KINGDOM BY A FRENCH CHIEF OF STATE, PRESIDENT VALERY GISCARD D'ESTAING STEPPED OFF A CONCORDE TO BE GREETED BY KING KHALID, A MARK OF SPECIAL FAVOR SINCE PREVIOUS REPORTS HAD THE KING'S HEALTH PREVENTING HIM FROM RECEIVING THE FRENCH PRESIDENT AT THE AIRPORT. THE RECEPTION WAS WARM, ELABORATE AND CORDIAL, WITH FLAGS FESTOONING THE STREETS OF RIYADH AND TRADITIONAL SAUDI FESTIVITIES LAID ON FOR THE VISITORS. MEDIA COVERAGE WAS LAVISH, WITH COLOR TELEVISION SPECIALS COVERING CAMEL RACES, WAR DANCES, AND PROTOCOL FUNCTIONS. GIFTS AND DECORATIONS WERE EXCHANGED, FALCONS DISPLAYED. ACCORDING TO THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN, THE FOOD WAS EXCELLENT. DISCUSSIONS WERE HANDLED BY THE KING'S INTERPRETER IN ENGLISH, WHILE THE FRENCH-ARABIC TRANSLATOR STOOD IN RESERVE.

2. AMONG INTERNATIONAL ISSUES DISCUSSED IN THE COMMUNIQUE WAS THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION. THE TWO SIDES FOCUSED ON ARAB/ISRAELI PROBLEMS AND LEBANON. THE FRENCH PRESIDENT ASSERTED THAT A SETTLEMENT WITH ISRAEL SHOULD BE BASED ON WITHDRAWAL TO PRE-1967 FRONTIERS, THE RIGHT OF PALESTINIANS TO A HOMELAND, AND THE RIGHT OF STATES IN THE AREA TO SECURE, RECOGNIZED AND GUARANTEED BORDERS. THE SAUDI SIDE STATED THE RETURN OF JERUSALEM AND THE RECOGNITION OF PALESTINIAN RIGHTS CONSTITUTES THE ROOT OF THE PROBLEM. THE SAUDIS SAID THE PLO MUST PARTICIPATE IN ANY UPCOMING GENEVA CONFERENCE AND IS THE SOLE LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. ON LEBANON, BOTH SIDES AGREED ON THE INVIOABILITY OF LEBANESE TERRITORY AND THE SOVEREIGNTY AND UNITY OF ITS PEOPLE. CONCERNING DJIBOUTI, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BOTH SIDES AGREED THAT THE FORTHCOMING INDEPENDENCE OF THIS TERRITORY IS ESSENTIAL FOR SECURITY IN THIS REGION.

3. ON OTHER INTERNATIONAL MATTERS, BOTH SIDES EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE CIEC WILL COME UP WITH SPECIFIC RESOLUTIONS ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH DEVELOPING AND INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. FRANCE PRAISED SAUDI MODERATION ON OIL PRICES. KIND WORDS WERE DIRECTED AT THE ARAB/EUROPEAN DIALOGUE.

4. IN BILATERAL RELATIONS, THE COMMUNIQUE PRAISED THE WORKINGS OF THE FRANCO-SAUDI JOINT ECONOMIC COMMISSION. THE FRENCH SAID THAT THEY WERE READY TO DISCUSS BUILDING A NUCLEAR RESEARCH CENTER IN THE KINGDOM. THE TWO SIDES AGREED TO STUDY POSSIBILITIES OF COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF SOLAR ENERGY. THE COMMUNIQUE NOTED THAT THE TWO COUNTRIES ARE ALREADY COOPERATING CLOSELY IN MANY AREAS AND HOPED THAT THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN WOULD PROVIDE NEW AREAS FOR FRENCH INVOLVEMENT. THE SAUDIS WELCOMED THE PARTICIPATION OF

FRENCH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE CORPORATIONS IN THESE PROJECTS.

5. IN CULTURAL MATTERS, THERE WAS AGREEMENT ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ISLAMIC AND ARAB STUDIES INSTITUTE IN PARIS.

6. THE COMMUNIQUE SAID THAT KING KHALID HAD ACCEPTED GISCARD'S INVITATION TO VISIT FRANCE. THE DATE HAD NOT YET BEEN DETERMINED.

7. THE AGREEMENT BY FRANCE TO BUY 292.5 MILLION BARRELS OF OIL OVER THE NEXT THREE YEARS WAS NOT INCLUDED IN THE COMMUNIQUE, THOUGH IT WAS MENTIONED BY GISCARD IN HIS DEPARTURE PRESS INTERVIEW AND IT RECEIVED WIDE MEDIA COVERAGE IN THE KINGDOM.

8. THE VISIT APPEARS TO HAVE GONE WELL. WE WILL FOLLOW UP WITH SAG AND FRENCH OFFICIALS WHEN THEY HAVE RECOVERED.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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TAGS: PFOR, SA, FR, (GISCARD D'ESTAING, VALERY)
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